United Nations A/71/189

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 July 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Item 63 of the provisional agenda*
New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

New Partnership for Africa's Development: fourteenth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Since its adoption 15 years ago, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has served as a framework for Africa's development, and has contributed to improved growth and social outcomes across the continent.

The present report, submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 70/295, coincides with the first year of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. At the continental level, following the adoption of the African Union Agenda 2063, the long-term strategic vision for the continent's transformative development over the next 50 years, and the adoption of its first 10-year implementation plan in June 2015, African countries have begun to implement the plan in earnest.

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The report notes that the unfavourable global economic conditions during the review period, especially in trade and financing, pose a challenge to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the NEPAD agenda, threatening to derail the progress made through the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Despite the gains made through the implementation of NEPAD, African countries face a number of challenges, including weak agricultural productivity, limited diversification and lack of financing, all of which pose challenges to the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. In this regard, African countries and their development partners need to intensify efforts to address challenges and to seize opportunities. This is important to preserving development gains and further accelerating progress towards inclusive growth and sustainable development.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/295, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution to its seventy-first session.

2. The report highlights actions and policy measures undertaken by African countries and organizations in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as well as the complementary measures implemented by the international community, including support provided by the organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system during the past year. Where data allow, activities undertaken by the private sector and civil society organizations in support of NEPAD have also been highlighted. The report benefited from information provided by Member States, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism, the regional economic communities, the African Development Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), members of the Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs and other subregional and regional African stakeholders.

II. Action taken by African countries and organizations

3. Adopted in 2001 by African Heads of State and Government, NEPAD is an African-owned and African-led framework for the continent's socioeconomic revival. Spearheaded by African leaders, the framework represents an important paradigm shift in the way that African Governments and people conceive of their development. Despite progress in economic and social development, including in some Millennium Development Goals, persistent and emerging challenges remain, which, if not addressed, will hinder progress towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063.

4. Following the adoption of Agenda 2063 at the twenty-fourth African Union Summit in January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the African Union also adopted the first 10-year implementation plan (2013-2023), which includes all of the priorities of NEPAD. The plan comprises key flagship programmes and projects for: the implementation of the Grand Inga Dam project; an integrated high-speed train network; an African virtual and e-university; formulation of a commodities strategy; establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area by 2017; the all-African Passport and free movement of people; establishment of a single African air transport market; establishment of the African financial institution; "Silencing the guns" by 2020; a Pan-African e-network; and an Africa outer space strategy.

5. The NEPAD Agency, as the technical arm of the African Union, in coordination with other structures of the African Union and regional economic communities, is focusing its efforts on the implementation of these programmes and projects through the provision of support to African countries for planning and implementation and for the monitoring and evaluation of their implementation. The Agency has also organized stakeholder consultations to develop a framework for the domestication of Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris

Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in national development frameworks, building enhanced capacities at national, regional and continental levels to coordinate the implementation of these agendas.

6. Agenda 2063 builds on the NEPAD experience, incorporating all of the Partnership's sectoral priorities as well as ongoing national and regional efforts towards its implementation. In June 2015, African Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that NEPAD is the strategic vehicle to accelerate the implementation of the Africa Union's regional integration agenda and recommitted themselves to exercising strong political will and determination to fast-track its implementation at all levels within the context of Agenda 2063.

7. Against this background, the continent has taken important steps towards realizing the NEPAD agenda, and ultimately the aspirations of Agenda 2063, by the launch, in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, in June 2015, of the Tripartite Free Trade Area, involving the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the East African Community, and the Southern African Development Community. The Tripartite Free Trade Area, which brings together 26 African countries spanning roughly half the continent, including 55 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP), is an important step towards strengthened regional trade and the realization of the Continental Free Trade Area envisioned in Agenda 2063. This, coupled with the launch of the Common External Tariff by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which became effective in January 2015, represents an important step towards the Continental Free Trade Area and the enhancement of intra-African trade.

8. Full realization of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063 will require concerted efforts by both African countries and the international community.

A. Infrastructure

9. In light of the fact that infrastructure inefficiencies cost countries in Africa billions of dollars every year, bridging the gap on infrastructure is vital in order to ensure sustainable development. During the reporting period, African countries continued implementing the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, which serves as the continent's overarching framework for infrastructure development.

10. Following the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, held in June 2014, the implementation of NEPAD's 16 "mega projects" started in earnest, including on the following four milestones: (a) the service delivery mechanism of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, which will enhance capacity for early-stage project preparation; (b) the launch of the round table for project preparation funds to further cooperation on funding continent-wide initiatives, such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, in partnership with the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa; (c) roll-out of a $830 million in seed capital to 20 countries through the African Development Bank for project development and finance; and (d) the endorsement of the Continental Business Network, a high-level platform for private sector involvement in the projects launched under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa in June 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa, on the side lines of the World Economic

Forum on Africa. The Network will act as an infrastructure investment advisory platform exclusively for African leaders and will provide thought-leadership for strategic policy issues.

11. Progress on the implementation of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative also continued during the reporting period. Various components of the North-South corridor road/rail project are well under way. For instance, the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility is funding a feasibility study and engineering design for the 270 km missing link between the town of Kapoeta and Raad Road in South Sudan and the feasibility study of the Tunduma-Nakonde one-stop border post has been completed. Regional rail operators are preparing a blueprint on increasing rail freight volumes in the Zambia-South Africa corridor and taking steps to establish a regional locomotive and wagon leasing pool to address shortages. With respect to the "Missing link of the Trans-Sahara Highway" project, construction of the missing sections is progressing well and is on schedule for completion in 2016-2017.

12. Under the "Optic fibre from Algeria via Niger to Nigeria" project, while the Algeria section of the network from Algiers to the border with Niger has been completed and is now operational, in order to ensure high network availability, it will need to be reinforced and secured. Progress was also recorded on other projects, including the "Trans-Saharan gas pipeline" also known as the "Nigeria-Algeria gas pipeline". The Nigerian Government mobilized $450 million through a Eurobond towards the financing of the project. The "Kinshasa-Brazzaville bridge road/rail" project is approaching request for tender stage, pending the completion of two workshops to finalize its design. With regard to the "Navigational line from Lake Victoria to the Mediterranean Sea via the River Nile" project, the Government of Egypt completed a prefeasibility study in June 2015 in line with the original schedule in spite of the complexity of the project and the lack of outside funding. Kenya also joined the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, promoting the implementation of the Lamu Port-Southern Sudan-Ethiopia transport corridor project.

13. Financing as well as weak coordination and capacity are key constraints to the development of infrastructure projects. On the financing for infrastructure front, the NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, worked to broaden domestic resource mobilization priorities beyond administrative improvements in tax collection to include novel and innovative financing instruments, such as regional infrastructure bonds, in order to leverage existing funds and resources.

B. Agriculture and food security

14. During the review period, African countries continued to make progress towards implementation of their commitments relating to agricultural development and food security, including the commitment contained in the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security to allocate at least 10 per cent of public expenditure to agriculture, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme commitment to achieve a 6 per cent annual growth rate in agricultural productivity and the commitments in the Malabo Declaration on Africa's

Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for a more targeted approach to achieving the vision of shared prosperity and improved livelihoods by 2025.

15. As of November 2015, 50 countries were actively engaged in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, with 44 countries having signed compacts and 29 having implemented national agriculture and food security investment plans. Mauritius signed its compact during the reporting period. To enhance the allocation of public financing to agriculture, the NEPAD Agency developed a methodology for integrating agriculture public expenditure processes into agriculture sector joint review processes. Regarding the 10 per cent budgetary target, according to the latest data, 12 countries have reached or surpassed the target, while 13 others are in the 5 per cent to 10 per cent range.[1]

16. At the regional level, the NEPAD Agency supported the development of plans of the East African Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for regional agriculture investment. In addition, the Agency reviewed the regional agriculture investment plan of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and provided technical training to the statistics bureaux of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and of eight member States to test real-time data collection through the application of interactive templates in order to monitor high-impact indicators for Agenda 2063 and other continental and global commitments.

17. With respect to the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund for Food Security, since 2013, contributions have reached $40 million, with Angola, Equatorial Guinea and civil society organizations from the Republic of Congo being the major financial contributors. To date, the fund has allocated $34.5 million to 15 regional programmes and national projects that are being implemented in 36 countries to boost efforts to eradicate hunger and reduce malnutrition and poverty.

18. Regarding capacity-building activities, the NEPAD Agency deployed technical experts to six countries, including Chad, the Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Seychelles and Swaziland, to undertake independent technical reviews of their national agriculture investment plans. Capacities were also enhanced in agricultural skills and entrepreneurial and commercial knowledge for trainers, youth and women in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Togo, and cooling facilities were donated to six fishing villages in Cameroon to facilitate the preservation of fish.

19. With regard to food security, the NEPAD Agency, with support from the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the World Food Programme, continued to implement the policy recommendations of the "Cost of Hunger in Africa Study", which estimates the social and economic cost of undernutrition. Five additional studies were concluded in Burkina Faso, Chad, Ghana, Madagascar and Malawi in 2015. The Agency also advocated increased public investment in nutrition.

20. While Africa has made progress in implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the commitments contained in the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security and the Malabo Declaration on Africa's Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation, countries continue to face a number of challenges, including inadequate financial support for the

[1] See A/69/163.

agriculture sector, coupled with the lack of capacity and policy coordination, and difficulty in translating political commitments into concrete action. Low agricultural productivity remains a perennial challenge contributing to food insecurity.

C. Health

21. Ensuring healthy lives is an important aspiration of the African Union. The NEPAD Agency continued to support the implementation of the Africa Health Strategy: 2016-2030, which is aimed at promoting healthy lives through ensuring availability of safe, good quality and reasonably priced medicines for African countries.

22. During the period under review, the NEPAD Agency continued to support the implementation of the African medicines regulatory harmonization programme, the objective of which is to establish and improve standards and requirements related to the regulation of and access to safe, high-quality medicines for the African population. This objective relates to the third goal of Agenda 2063 on "healthy and well-nourished citizens", and the targets in the first 10-year implementation plan aimed at improving people's access to quality affordable health care. Furthermore, at the continental level, the African Union is working to establish the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention by 2023, and to harmonize the regulatory standards of medical products in the various African regions.

23. Progress also continued with the implementation of the African medicines regulatory harmonization programme at the subregional level. For example, the implementation of harmonized medical products regulatory standards in the East African Community came into effect in January 2015, and the regional medicines regulatory harmonization programme has been launched by the West African Health Organization and West African Economic and Monetary Union for the ECOWAS region. Furthermore, through the tripartite agreement between the NEPAD Agency, the World Bank and the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community, financial and technical support was provided to the States members of the Community for the implementation of their regional medicines regulatory harmonization programmes. Further work on the Central African regional harmonization programme is ongoing between ECCAS, the Organization of Coordination for the Control of Endemic Diseases in Central Africa, the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa and the NEPAD Agency. The African medicines harmonization framework should be completed and operational by 2017.

24. The NEPAD Agency also embarked on efforts to coordinate the preparation of a research and innovation policy and strategy for health, which will be integrated into the updated African Health Strategy 2016-2030. In addition, $5.53 million in funding has been mobilized for the institutional support of the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa, established as a platform for developing science strategies and funding health research in Africa.

25. In the fight against Ebola, the NEPAD Agency led efforts to mobilize action by African countries and to establish a favourable environment for conducting clinical trials to test potential Ebola vaccines and other forms of therapy. Furthermore, regional technical working groups provided oversight on clinical trials for candidate Ebola vaccines in the East and West Africa regions. The majority of countries with

the worst indicators for maternal mortality, infant mortality, communicable disease morbidity and mortality are still in Africa.

D. Education and training

26. Human capital development remains a key priority for Africa, one which African Governments have sought to address through the implementation of NEPAD. Building on the progress achieved, Agenda 2063 recognizes "well-educated citizens" and a "skills revolution" as key prerequisites for realizing the vision of the "Africa We Want" by 2063. The first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 sets ambitious targets for 2023, including national targets of having 100 per cent rates of enrolment in secondary schools and basic education.

27. Working through the NEPAD Agency, and in coordination with its programmes, the African Union has advocated the importance of African countries sustaining their investment in education and vocational training in order to ensure, in particular, that students receive education and training that provides them with the skills required by the labour markets. The Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) Plan of Action and the African Youth Decade (2009-2018) Plan of Action are important frameworks for promoting education and youth development in Africa.

28. The main milestone in the area of education and training during the period under review was the design of a continental youth employment programme, geared towards the engagement of youth in gainful employment through skills development. In addition, the NEPAD agricultural education and training programme, aimed at developing requisite skills for the agriculture sector, is now operational.

29. In 2015, there were 100 graduates, from Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda and the Sudan, from the nursing and midwifery programme, a specialized skills programme designed to deliver high quality primary health-care services in Africa. Despite progress in the area of education, however, outcomes, as measured in terms of skills and knowledge, have been less than satisfactory.

E. Environment and tourism

30. Africa continues to bear the brunt of the adverse impacts of climate change, and the continent will require significant resources for climate adaptation and mitigation. In recognition of this challenge, African countries are committed to addressing climate change as a priority. Agenda 2063 calls for an "environment and ecosystems that are healthy and preserved, and climate resilient economies and communities". Furthermore, the 10-year implementation plan places emphasis on climate change, including the implementation of an African strategy on climate change, operationalization of the Africa Climate Change Fund, utilization of climate resilient agricultural practices and strengthening climate adaptation, resilience and education.

31. At the national level, the NEPAD Agency continued to support African countries in their efforts to address the challenges of climate change. For instance, Ethiopia has received technical support from the Agency to undertake stock-taking and appraisal of its climate-smart agriculture programmes. Over a three-year period, the Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance is expected to reach over 200,000

households in the country. To date, platforms advancing climate-smart agricultural techniques for women have been established to support local adaptation and the scaling-up of such methods in 30 communes across five administrative regions.

32. In view of the importance of addressing climate change for Africa's development, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change and several Pan-African institutions, including the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, jointly organized Africa Day at the African Pavilion on the margins of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris in 2015 in order to raise awareness of the challenges and possible solutions to climate change and to lay plans for future actions under the Paris Agreement, with a focus on Africa's intended nationally determined contributions, the African Clean Energy Corridor, the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative and climate-smart agriculture initiatives. As part of efforts geared at pursuing the target of having at least 25 million households practicing climate-smart agricultural practices by 2025, an Africa coordination platform was established. Other important milestones worth highlighting are: the Africa Adaptation Initiative, the Africa Climate Business Plan and the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, all of which were launched at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties.

33. On tourism, the NEPAD Agency and the World Tourism Organization (WTO) signed a memorandum of understanding at the 58th meeting of WTO Commission for Africa and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production Sustainable Tourism Conference and Symposium. The objective of the memorandum is to enhance cooperation between the NEPAD Agency and WTO in the implementation of the NEPAD Tourism Action Plan. In addition, the partnership will help to promote tourism as a tool for development in Africa, in line with WTO priorities and the aspirations and goals of Agenda 2063 on sustainable economic growth and inclusive development.

F. Information and communications technology

34. During the period under review, the NEPAD Agency continued to support African countries in the development of ICT. Actions focused on the four piliars of the NEPAD e-Africa programme, namely: (a) ICT infrastructure; (b) capacity development; (c) e-applications and services; and (d) an enabling environment and governance.

35. Regarding ICT infrastructure, the NEPAD Agency continued to support innovations in the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs), use of space technology and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), particularly as a tool for early warning for humanitarian preparedness. To that end, one of the projects under the Earth Observation theme is the Global Monitoring of Environment and Security in Africa, which is expected to start operations in 2017. The project will focus on building and improving the current Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa, with a view to enabling African countries to develop human, technical and institutional capacities for access to, and use of, Earth observation services to respond to environmental and security needs for sustainable growth.

36. On capacity-building, within the context of the African Union theme for 2015, "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063", the NEPAD/Spanish Fund for African Women's Empowerment supported 76 projects in 37 countries, directly benefiting over half a million African women in areas including ICTs, business skills and vocational training. In addition, the NEPAD Agency supported training efforts for States members of the African Union to develop capacity, in particular in collecting, managing and analysing African science, technology and innovation indicators. Countries that have benefitted from the training include Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Togo, the Sudan and Zimbabwe.

37. Despite progress, barriers to ICT development persist, including weak infrastructure, high costs associated with relevant technologies and regulatory frameworks and limited institutional capacity.

G. Science, technology and innovation

38. Science, technology and innovation is an important programmatic priority area for NEPAD. Because the Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action constitutes the framework for the development of science and technology in Africa, the NEPAD Agency continued to support African countries to implement the Plan of Action in the three interrelated areas of: capacity-building; knowledge production; and technological innovation.

39. Regarding capacity-building, the NEPAD Agency continued to support States members of the African Union in collecting, managing and analysing African science, technology and innovation indicators for tracking progress in the implementation of health policy instruments and the Sustainable Development Goals. The following countries benefitted from NEPAD support: Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Togo, the Sudan and Zimbabwe.

40. The African Union recognizes the potential role of knowledge generation and its application in driving dynamic transformation of African economies. In this regard, during the review period, the NEPAD Agency continued to support measures aimed at promoting knowledge generation and innovation for sustainable development in African countries. The Agency mobilized €6.0 million in funding from the European Union to support capacity development, research and innovation in water and sanitation in the Southern and West Africa regions. In addition, study of the biosciences in the Southern Africa region was strengthened through funding support of €7.0 million from the Government of Finland and €2.5 million from the Government of South Africa.

41. Since 2009, through the African Biosafety Network of Expertise, the NEPAD Agency has continued to provide support to a number of African countries to help them strengthen their national biosafety systems, and in this time more than 2,500 regulators, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders have received biosafety training. In 2003, NEPAD helped to establish the African Institute for Mathematical Science as the first network of centres of excellence in mathematical sciences, enabling Africa's brightest students to become innovators who propel scientific, educational and economic self-sufficiency.

H. Gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and civil society participation

42. Achieving women's empowerment and gender equality is indispensable to sustainable development, and they remain key priorities of the African Union. As part of its efforts to scale up progress towards women empowerment and gender equality through awareness-raising, with a view to mobilizing increased political commitment, the African Union designated 2015 the "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063" and 2016 as the "African Year of Human Rights, with particular focus on the rights of women". The NEPAD Agency continued to support the implementation and mainstreaming of gender in African countries in the 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063.

43. At the regional level, the NEPAD Agency has been most involved in capacity assessments (especially in the extractives and industrialization sectors) and frameworks to implement policies to promote gender equality with strong accountability mechanisms through the African Mutual Accountability Standard. In particular, the Agency ensured the participation of Africa's regional economic communities in the second global partnership monitoring exercise and the Africa action plan on development effectiveness.

44. The NEPAD Agency provided capacity-building to seven countries (Benin, Burundi, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda and Uganda), which contributed to strengthening their capacities in the application of country results frameworks for effective development cooperation. The Agency also provided support to Government institutions and civil society organizations, including women's grassroots organizations to strengthen their capacities in gender mainstreaming.

45. In order to ensure that there are additional resources to support development projects that address gender concerns in Africa, the NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with the Spanish Government, established the NEPAD/Spanish Fund for African Women's Empowerment. Since its inception in 2007, the Fund has contributed to women's economic empowerment through skills transfer, access to finance and the set-up of businesses and access to land. More than half-a-million women have benefited directly from the Fund. Despite this, lack of financing remains a serious challenge that undermines progress towards women's empowerment and gender equality.[2]

I. African Peer Review Mechanism

46. The African Peer Review Mechanism is a mutually agreed self-monitoring instrument established in 2003 by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee to strengthen governance in the areas of democracy and political governance, economic governance and management, corporate governance and socioeconomic development.

47. During the review period, African leaders committed themselves to revitalizing the mechanism, to ensuring its independence through the mobilization of adequate and predictable resources and to encouraging other States members of

[2] See A/70/176-S/2015/560.

the African Union to join the mechanism. A new Chief Executive Officer was appointed in February 2016 to encourage the revitalization process.

48. To date, 35 member States of the African Union have voluntarily joined the mechanism, including: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, the Congo, Rwanda, São Tome and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Of these, 18 countries (Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia) have completed their reviews, while three are currently at an advanced stage of the review process and will be peer-reviewed at the 27th African Peer Review Forum in Kigali in July 2016. Going forward, the urgent task for the Mechanism is the effective implementation of the national programmes of action arising from the peer review exercises.

49. At the institutional level, the African Peer Review secretariat is being strengthened by its integration into the African Union, along with the development of greater collaboration and synergy with the NEPAD Agency and other relevant organizations. In this regard, the African Peer Review Mechanism is being repositioned to effectively serve as the monitoring tool for Agenda 2063.

III. Response of the international community: building on the momentum of the international community support for Africa's development

A. Introduction

50. As is the case with many developing economies, global economic activities have considerable bearing on Africa economic outcome. For the period under review global economic activities remained subdued, with GDP growth declining to 3.1 per cent in 2015 down from 3.4 per cent in 2014. Emerging markets, which account for 70 per cent of global output recorded GDP growth rate of 4 per cent in 2015, the lowest since the global financial crisis of 2008-2009. Furthermore, a considerable decline in imports in many emerging economies and developing countries, especially China, has also affected global growth. All these unfavourable factors weighed heavily on Africa's growth performance, with GDP growth decelerating slightly from 3.7 per cent in 2014 to 3.6 per cent in 2015. The end of "the commodity super cycle", occasioned by the shift in China's structure of the economy away from investment in manufacturing towards consumption is likely to affect Africa's growth prospects in the medium term. The continued fragility of Africa's growth underscores the imperative of policies that promote diversification and the structural transformation of African economies.

51. The unfavourable global economic conditions, including reduced capital and trade flows, are likely to affect the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. The historic adoption of the three global development frameworks in 2015, starting with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Control, signalled a renewed commitment to international cooperation that bodes well for the implementation of the Goals in Africa. However, success hinges crucially on the seriousness with which they are implemented, particularly the means of support for the implementation of the three global frameworks in Africa. So far, commitments made towards Africa's development have not been fully implemented and, if the current trend continues, Africa will find it difficult to reach the Goals by 2030.[3]

52. On 26 and 27 May 2016, Japan hosted the annual Group of Seven Summit in Ise-Shima. The leaders of the seven advanced economies welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and undertook to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, especially in developing countries. They also committed themselves to tackling the challenge posed by migration and refugees through increased financial assistance to address the immediate and long-term needs of refugees and other displaced persons. On trade, the leaders committed themselves to forging ahead towards concluding negotiations on an ambitious, balanced and mutually beneficial Trade in Services Agreement by the end of 2016.

53. At the Group of 20 Summit, held in Antalya, Turkey, in November 2015, leaders committed themselves to undertaking a number of concrete actions to strengthen the global economy in order to make global growth more inclusive, enhance the resilience of the international financial system, mobilize investment to raise long-term growth and implement previous commitments on economic reforms, including in labour markets. Building on President Obama's "Feed the Future" initiative, which has mobilized $22 billion in funding for agriculture, the Summit endorsed an action plan on food security and sustainable food systems aimed at improving food security and nutrition through ensuring the economic, social and environmental sustainability of food production and consumption. Data shows that through the "Feed the Future" initiative several African countries (Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda) that have benefitted from the initiative have seen declines in childhood stunting of between 9 per cent and 33 per cent. The Summit also endorsed the "Energy Access Action Plan" to help enhance access to electrical power in sub-Saharan Africa.

54. In Banjul, the Gambia, in June 2016, the ministerial meeting was convened to prepare for the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, to be held in Nairobi in August 2016, and to review the implementation of the commitments made at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference, held in Yokohama in 2013. During the meeting, Japan reported that a total $21.7 billion out of the $32 billion pledged at the Fifth Conference had been disbursed.

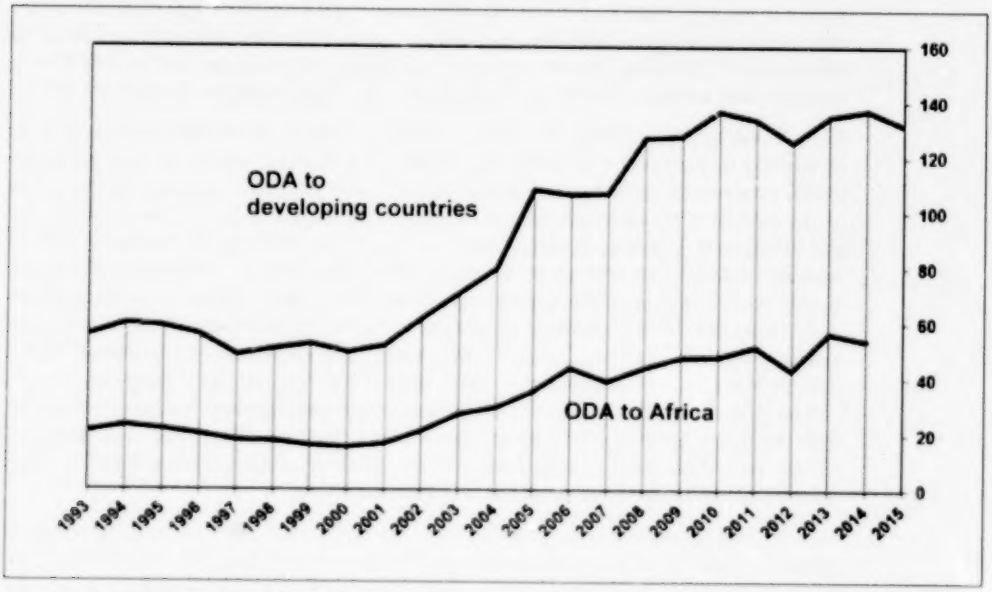
B. Official development assistance

55. According to the latest revised available data from the OECD, total net official development assistance (ODA) from member countries of the Development Assistance Committee declined from $137.2 billion in 2014 to $131.6 billion in 2015 (see figure I). This represents a decline of 4.3 per cent over 2014. Net ODA disbursements from countries members of the Committee to African countries in 2014 totalled about $53.8 billion, representing a decrease of 5.2 per cent from the 2013 net disbursement of $56.7 billion.

[3] See A/71/203.

56. In 2015, net ODA as per cent of the gross national income (GNI) of the member countries of the Development Assistance Committee was 0.30 per cent, virtually unchanged from 2014. Only six countries met or exceeded the 0.70 ODA/GNI target set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Donors have reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI as ODA and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI as ODA for the least developed countries. They also pledged to reverse the decline in ODA to the least developed countries. ODA providers who have not met their commitments have been urged to step up efforts to increase their ODA and to make additional concrete efforts towards achieving the ODA targets.

Figure I
Total ODA from all donors



Source: OECD/DAC online database, 2016.

57. On aid effectiveness, data released by OECD indicates some progress in reducing aid fragmentation. In 2013, member countries of the Development Assistance Committee channelled approximately 41 per cent of their total gross ODA through multilateral organizations, reaching $59 billion after a two-year decline. However, volatility of funding is increasing as overall funding varies considerably from one year to the next, particularly for non-core resources.

58. In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Member States committed themselves to continuing their efforts to improve the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation, including by making more progress on areas such as alignment of activities with national priorities, reducing fragmentation, accelerating the untying of aid, promoting country ownership and results orientation, strengthening country systems, strengthening partnerships for development, reducing transaction costs and increasing transparency and mutual accountability.

59. In light of the ongoing discussions on the modernization of the ODA measurement and on the proposed OECD measure of "total official support for sustainable development", in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda Member States committed themselves to the holding of open, inclusive and transparent discussions on the subject and affirmed that any such measure would not dilute commitments already made. Furthermore, in light of the central role of structural transformation and sustainable industrialization in both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, there is a need to reorient ODA towards the productive sector as well as to use it to catalyse private financing towards productive capacity development.

C. Debt relief

60. Addressing the debt burden of African countries is important for achieving sustainable development. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognizes the need to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability, including through fostering debt financing and sound debt management.

Current and potential beneficiaries of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (as of June 2016)

Status	*Countries*
30 post-completion point countries	Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia
3 pre-decision point countries	Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan

Source: International Monetary Fund.

61. As of June 2016, 30 African countries had reached the post-completion point and continued to receive full debt relief. Three other countries, namely, Eritrea, Somalia and the Sudan, remained at the pre-decision phase. There is some progress on a Fund-supported programme for Eritrea. Representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) visited Asmara in mid-February 2016 to initiate discussions on an IMF supported programme.

62. In the case of Somalia, the World Bank is currently working on the poverty reduction strategy paper process and documentation. Somalia had a successful article IV consultation in July 2015. IMF and the Somali authorities have also made significant progress in the development of initial GDP estimates, the preparation of the national budgets and financial accounting and reporting at the central bank.

63. The Sudan, which is still in arrears to IMF, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, will need to take all the steps needed to reach the decision point under the HIPC Initiative: (a) receive financing assurances from creditors for HIPC debt relief, (b) establish a track record of performance and (c) clear its arrears to IMF, the World Bank and the African Development Bank and have an arrears clearance plan with the remaining external creditors. At this stage, it is not possible to assign a firm timeline for the fulfilment of these steps, and, to date, there is no indication from the Sudan or from its creditors regarding such a timeline.

64. Commodity prices have continued to drop over the last two years, resulting in increased borrowing costs in African countries. Moreover, since global financial conditions are projected to remain constant in the short term, the cost of external debt will remain high, thereby resulting in reduced access to the sovereign bond market for African countries, particularly for countries like Angola, Nigeria and the Sudan and other major oil exporting countries in Africa. Since debt relief has contributed to the conditions that prevail in the African continent today, it will be important to maintain more accountability and transparency over countries' reasons for borrowing; to ascertain who is providing the assistance; and to provide more transparency on the terms of borrowing.[4]

65. With respect to debt sustainability, Africa's public debt-to-GDP is lower today than it has been in decades and overall fiscal policies are sustainable in most countries. Debt levels on the continent are comparable to those of other developing countries and below that of advanced economies.

D. Foreign direct investment and other private flows

66. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) World Investment Report 2016, global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows increased by 38 per cent in 2015, to an estimated $1.76 trillion, their highest level since the global economic and financial crisis of 2008-2009, with cross-border mergers and acquisitions largely responsible for this increase.

67. However, FDI flows to Africa declined, from $58 billion in 2014 to $54 billion in 2015: a decline of 7 per cent. As a result, Africa's share in global FDI fell sharply from 4.6 per cent in 2014 to 3.1 per cent in 2015. While North Africa reversed the decline recorded in 2014, the decrease in FDI flows to the continent is largely due to a decline of FDI flows to Sub-Saharan Africa, mainly as a result of the drop in the price of oil and other primary commodities. The Central and West Africa subregions were the hardest hit by the decline in FDI flows in 2015.

68. FDI flows to North Africa increased in 2015 by 9 per cent, reaching $12.6 billion, driven mainly by a 49 per cent increase in FDI flows to Egypt, which received $6.9 billion, accounting for more than half of the FDI flows to the subregion. The financial industry, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, oil and automotive industries were among the key economic sectors that attracted FDI.

69. A decrease in FDI flows to Nigeria to $3.1 billion in 2015, down from $4.7 billion in 2014, has affected FDI flows to the West Africa subregion, which

[4] www.brookings.edu/blogs/africa-in-focus/posts/2016/05/27-external-risks-to-african-growth-copley.

declined by 18 per cent to $9.9 billion in 2015. Similarly, FDI flows to Central Africa dropped markedly, by 36 per cent to $5.8 billion, mainly due to a sharp decline in FDI flows to commodity-rich countries. East Africa received $7.8 billion in FDI in 2015, marking a moderate decrease of 2 per cent from 2014.

70. The role of multilateral and regional development banks in supporting regional integration and structural economic transformation in Africa was emphasized in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Action Agenda urged multilateral and regional development banks to increase their support to projects and cooperation frameworks that foster regional and subregional integration, with special attention to Africa.

71. In addition, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognized the importance of mobilizing adequate financing for infrastructure development to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development.

E. Trade

72. Facilitating Africa's integration into the global economy through enhanced market access and support, including addressing supply side constraint, has always been an important objective of the international community. The total value of global exports at current prices amounted to $16.5 trillion in 2015, representing a substantial decline of 13.2 per cent over 2014. Factors contributing to the decline in global exports include subdued demand for imports from emerging economies, drastic exchange rate fluctuations and a sharp decline in commodity prices.

73. Africa was heavily affected by the drop in commodity prices. According to UNCTAD, Africa's total exports declined by 29.6 per cent to $388.3 billion in 2015, with a sharp drop in commodity prices negatively affecting Africa's resource-rich economies in particular.

74. The World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference held in Nairobi in December 2015 culminated in the adoption of the "Nairobi package", comprising six ministerial decisions on the following matters: abolishment of farm export subsidies; establishment of public stockholding for food security purposes; a special safeguard mechanism for developing countries; introduction of measures related to cotton; preferential treatment for services exports of the least developed countries; and eligibility of the least developed countries for trade preferences.

75. Total aid-for-trade commitments reached $54.4 billion in 2014. Commitments in aid-for-trade to Africa totalled $18.2 billion, which constituted roughly one-third of global aid-for-trade commitments. Regarding the sectoral distribution of such commitments, energy generation and supply accounted for the largest share of aid-for-trade commitments and disbursements, making up 29.7 per cent of all aid-for-trade commitments to Africa, followed by the transport and storage sector and the agriculture sector at 24.0 per cent and 22.5 per cent, respectively.

F. South-South cooperation

76. South-South and triangular cooperation continued to be an important mechanism for driving Africa's development in all sectors, serving as a complement to North-South cooperation.

77. In July 2015, at the seventh summit of the BRICS countries (Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa), held in Ufa, Russian Federation, leaders of the five countries adopted the Ufa Declaration, the Ufa Action Plan and the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership. The Summit marked the entry into force of the BRICS financial institutions: the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, with a total volume of $200 billion. Cooperation was strengthened in the areas of: trade; investment; manufacturing; mineral processing; energy; agriculture; science, technology and innovation; finance; connectivity; and ICT.

78. In November 2015, the third Brazil-Africa Forum was held in Recife, Brazil, on the theme: "Challenges and opportunities for energy supply in Brazil and Africa". The Forum explored alternatives energy sources in Africa and business opportunities for companies from different parts of the world, including how South-South Cooperation can support African countries in transition to adopt clean energy technologies for sustainable development.

79. In December 2015, relations between African countries and China were strengthened at the Johannesburg Summit/Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, at which the Declaration of the Johannesburg Summit and the Johannesburg Action Plan (2016-2018) were adopted. China announced 10 initiatives covering: industrialization, agricultural modernization, infrastructure, financial services, green development, trade and investment facilitation, poverty reduction and public welfare, public health, people-to-people exchanges and peace and security and made several important commitments: $5 billion in free aid and interest-free loans; $35 billion in preferential loans and export credit on more favourable terms; $5 billion in additional capital for the China-Africa Development Fund; a special loan for the development of African small and medium-sized enterprises, and a China-Africa production capacity cooperation fund, with initial capital of $10 billion.

IV. Support provided by the United Nations system

A. General

80. The United Nations system continued to strengthen its support for the implementation of NEPAD and the African Union strategic plans for the period 2014-2017, notably in the context of the "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063", and the year of "Human rights, with particular focus on the rights of Women". The United Nations system also supported the African Union and its subregional institutions in the context of the preparation for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the formulation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

81. During the reviewed period, the United Nations adopted key development frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement. The African Union adopted Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan. Against this background, the United Nations system supported enhancing the synergies and complementarities between the regional and the global frameworks and facilitated the mainstreaming, domestication and implementation of all the development frameworks in Africa.

B. Strengthening of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and NEPAD

82. During the reporting period, the United Nations system took steps towards enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the cluster-system through the reconfiguration and alignment of the nine clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa with Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan.

83. On 2 and 3 April 2016, at the seventeenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, held under the theme, "Toward an integrated and coherent approach to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals", members discussed the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals; the African Year of Human Rights with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women; movement, migration, youth and gender empowerment; regional integration, infrastructure and trade; and strengthening the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

84. Representatives discussed the roles and responsibilities of each agency in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, particularly its first 10-year implementation plan, and called for the strengthening of partnerships, accountability, progressive monitoring and evaluation systems, and a transformative path to the economic development of Africa through the joint implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Goals.

85. Following the adoption of the first 10-year implementation plan by the African Union Summit in June 2015, the meeting considered the mechanism for implementing the framework on the United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda while ensuring that it is aligned with the 10-year implementation plan. The current 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union expires at the end of 2016.

86. In addition, at the seventeenth session, the Regional Coordination Mechanism cluster system was reconfigured to better respond to the priorities of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, adequate and predictable funding was requested to enhance the Mechanism's operational modalities for effectively implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and priority areas. The new cluster configuration is as follows: (a) sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industry, trade and regional integration; (b) infrastructure development; (c) human capital development, health, science, technology and innovation; (d) labour, employment creation, social protection, migration and mobility; (e) women and gender equality and youth empowerment; (f) humanitarian matters; (g) environment, urbanization and population; and (h) advocacy, information, communications and culture.

V. Conclusion and policy recommendations

87. African countries continued to implement their NEPAD priorities within the context of Agenda 2063, the long-term strategic framework for Africa's

transformative development over the next fifty years. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 has begun in earnest, building on the progress made through the implementation of NEPAD. This, coupled with previous gains made towards implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, has led to noticeable progress on the economic and social fronts.

88. Despite the difficult global economic environment in 2015, the international community continued to support the implementation of NEPAD through financing, trade, debt relief and South-South cooperation.

89. **In light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and other global frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change as well as Agenda 2063, African countries and their development partners need to mainstream and domesticate these agendas into their national development frameworks. The effective implementation of these agendas will contribute to realization of the NEPAD priorities.**

90. **Despite improved economic growth in the last decade, growth momentum has slowed considerably in recent years. High rates of unemployment and pervasive poverty remain persistent challenges that undermine progress towards the implementation of the NEPAD agenda. In this regard, African countries, together with their development partners, should continue to take measures to strengthen the basis of growth while promoting social policies to address poverty and inequality in line with the vison of the 2030 Agenda of ensuring that no one is left behind. A supportive international environment will be critical to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa, including through ODA, FDI, trade and debt relief.**

91. **African countries need to build on the progress made in the health sector through the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and NEPAD to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all through increased financing, recruitment, development and training and retention of health workers. Building sustainable health systems capable of meeting current and future threats such as the one posed by Ebola will be key to ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all Africans.**

92. **Knowledge acquisition through education and learning is not only important for unleashing human potential, but is also critical to the dynamic transformation of economies. Despite progress made in primary education, including towards the goal of gender parity in primary education, educational outcomes have been less satisfactory. African countries need to promote knowledge and learning for sustainable development by ensuring that education provides skills and knowledge that will drive the dynamic structural transformation of African economies in line with the NEPAD agenda. Special focus should be placed on vocational and technical training in order to develop skills transferable to the workplace.**

93. **Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is vital to making progress on all other Sustainable Development Goals. Building on the gains made through the Millennium Development Goals and the NEPAD agenda, African countries need to advance progress towards gender equality through**

ensuring women's full and effective participation in all spheres and enhancing their access to opportunities, including productive assets. Furthermore, given the cross-cutting nature of gender and women empowerment, women's rights need to be integrated across all ministries in African countries and not be the sole responsibility of specific national ministries responsible for gender issues.

94. Although African countries have made progress in recent years in promoting agricultural development through the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Programme, the sector remains heavily undercapitalized, with low agricultural productivity and food insecurity. Many countries are yet to meet the Programme target of allocating at least 10 per cent of their national budget to the sector, and donor support is minuscule, as only 7 per cent of ODA is allocated to agriculture. In this regard, African countries should increase public funding to agriculture. This should be complemented by international support through increased financing as well as support to strengthen agricultural research and development.

95. While African countries continue to take measures to invest in infrastructure development in the context of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, a substantial infrastructure deficit remains, which hobbles Africa's growth and sustainable development. As recognized in both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, the development of sustainable energy and resilient physical infrastructure are vital for sustained growth and sustainable development. In this regard, African countries need to further scale up investment in infrastructure through increased domestic resource mobilization, including unlocking private sector investment into the infrastructure sector. This must be combined with measures to ensure the quality of infrastructure investment outcomes through increased attention and diligence to project implementation and contract management.

96. Despite efforts to integrate African countries into the global economy, Africa's share of global trade has remained relatively stagnant, at 2 per cent. Furthermore, the sharp decline in commodity prices during the reviewed period affected negatively Africa's export performance, highlighting the continent's vulnerability to commodity price volatility. Therefore, African countries must accelerate measures to diversify their economies away from primary commodity to value-added products. International support through FDI, trade, technology transfer and innovation will be needed to help African countries transform their economies and achieve sustainable development.

97. While African countries continue to intensify their efforts towards regional integration, and ultimately towards the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area, as evidenced by the launch of the Tripartite Free Trade Area and the Common External Tariff by ECOWAS, further steps aimed at reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers will be critical to deepening regional integration on the continent. Given the large size of the service sector in African economies, substantial gains can result from the comprehensive liberalization of the services sector. In this regard, the liberalization of trade in services and regional services should be an integral part of Continental Free Trade Area process.

98. The global partnership has played an important role in the implementation of the NEPAD agenda over the last 15 years. Given the enormity of the challenge, as underscored by both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda

2063, a revitalized global partnership will be required to mobilize the means to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Africa, including through financial resources, capacity-building, trade and transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

99. Climate change represents a threat to sustainable development in Africa, given the continent's vulnerability to environmental and climatic events. Against this backdrop, African countries need to take measures to mitigate the negative effects of and adapt to climate change. As reaffirmed in the Paris Agreement, developed countries should provide increased climate finance, coupled with technology transfer to African countries, to enable them to respond effectively to the menace posed by climate change to sustainable development in Africa.

100. The 2015 African Union Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, endorsed the United Nations/African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda and called upon the United Nations to further enhance its cooperation with the African Union, especially in the context of the implementation of Agenda 2063. In the absence of the General Assembly resolution mandating the support of the United Nations system for Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan, African countries may need to consider bringing the matter to the attention of the Assembly for appropriate action and support.